



To: Members of the Michigan House of Representatives

From: Alexa Rae Malesky- Public Policy Coordinator, Grand Rapids Chamber
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Subject: HB 5526 – Letter Grade System for Public Schools

Date: February 8, 2018

The Grand Rapids Chamber and the Detroit Regional Chamber advocate for and support the implementation of a transparent rating system for Michigan's K-12 school system.

We must provide a clear, measurable picture of our school's performance to parents, teachers and administrators, and education stakeholders. To achieve these outcomes, **the Grand Rapids Chamber and the Detroit Regional Chamber support the A-F grading system laid out in HB 5526 that focuses on academic proficiency and individual student growth.**

This bill would create the Education Accountability Policy Commission tasked with the development and implementation of a statewide system of accountability measurements. The Commission would assign letter grades for pupil proficiency in Math and English along with letter grades for the percentage of all pupils who achieve adequate growth in Math and English.

This reporting is easy to understand and allows for a straightforward comparison of schools. The enactment of this bill would ensure a data driven, transparent reporting system that holds schools accountable to the students and communities they serve.

Additionally, our organizations support incorporating one summative grade for each school. We believe this change to HB 5526 would provide further clarification of school outcomes.

Our K-12 education is in crisis and we must implement legislation to increase Michigan's national ranking. Michigan's goal is to provide an excellent education in order to become a Top 10 in 10 state for educational outcomes. Increased transparency and clear reporting standards is a step in the right direction to attain this goal.

To ensure we are meeting the needs of all students, a transparent reporting system must be in place to hold schools accountable. We believe this bill **moves us forward to better educational outcomes that are important for our students' and state's success.** The Grand Rapids Chamber and the Detroit Regional Chamber urges your support of HB 5526.